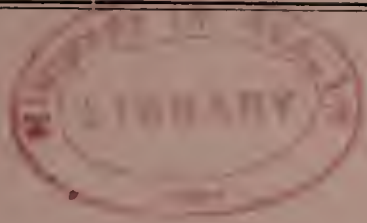
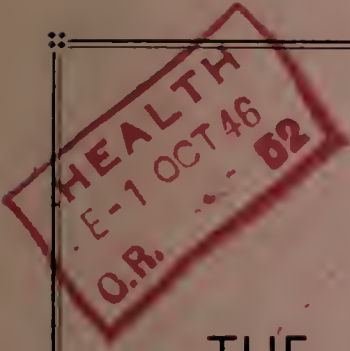


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1945.



THE RURAL DISTRICT  
OF  
ST. AUSTELL

❖

Annual Report  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

❖

J. Edyvean & Son, Printers, St. Columb.



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THE RURAL DISTRICT  
OF  
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⋈

# Annual Report

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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J. Edyvean & Son, Printers, St. Columb.



1945.

## Medical Officer's Annual Report.

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To the Members of the  
St. Austell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1945. You will notice that the Infantile Mortality Rate, although not quite so low as last year, is still only half that reported for England and Wales. There has been a slight decrease in the Birth Rate, which may be accounted for in part by the accompanying slight decrease of the population. Fortunately the Death Rate is also a little lower.

The general health of the District has been good except for an extensive outbreak of Measles, particularly in the western part. There has been a remarkable freedom from Dip<sup>h</sup>theria, no notification nor death has been reported from this disease.

Various official difficulties and lack of labour have proved obstacles in the way of speedy provision of necessary houses, but sites and plans have been arranged and it is hoped that next year will see many new buildings erected.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. G. ANDREW.

## RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres), 82,389.

Population (Census 1931), 20,464.

Population (estimated mid-1945), 18,660.

Rateable Value, £67,424.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £268.

Number of inhabited houses, 5,922.

Clay-mining and Agriculture still provide most of the employment in the area. According to the Register-General's returns, the population shows a slight decrease from last year.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 15.9. England & Wales 16.1. London 19.1. 1944 R.D.C. St. Austell 17.9.
Legitimate	117	142	259	
Illegitimate	21	17	38	
	<u>138</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>297</u>	

#### STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	} Rate per 1,000 of total births (live & still) 35.7. Rate per 1,000 of pop. .58 England & Wales .46. London .58.
Legitimate	4	6	10	
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	

#### DEATHS.

	M.	F.	Total	} Death Rate per 1,000 of population 11.7. 1944 12.3. England & Wales 11.4. London 13.5.
	109	110	219	

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	0
	<hr/>
	0

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE (under one year).

	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	
Legitimate	5	1	6	}	23.5. 1944 17.6.
Illegitimate	1	0	1		England & Wales 46.0.
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 7		London 54.0.

Deaths from Measles	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)		One

Whilst this rate (23.5) is remarkably good compared with the rest of the country, it has not reached the phenomenally low figure of last year. It is pleasing to note that no deaths from child-birth or accompanying causes have occurred during the year. Six out of seven of these Infantile Deaths were due to congenital defects.

### CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1945.
Heart Disease ...	66
Cancer ...	30
Intra-cranial lesion	21
Bronchitis ...	9
Nephritis ...	6
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6
Pneumonia ...	6
Road Traffic ...	4
Suicides ...	2
Death from Violence	9

		1944.
Heart Disease	... ..	65
Cerebral Causes	... ..	31
Cancer	... ..	20
Bronchitis	... ..	13
Nephritis	... ..	10
Tuberculosis (all forms)	... ..	6
Influenza	... ..	5
Pneumonia	... ..	2
Road Traffic	... ..	1
Suicides	... ..	3
Deaths from Violence	... ..	7

There has been a considerable increase in the number of deaths due to Cancer, about 13% of the total. I should like once again to emphasize the value of early consultation and diagnosis in this disease, the results of treatment are so much more favourable in its early stages.

More Road Traffic deaths have been reported, possibly due to the increased motor traffic.

### CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

#### Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-one cases were reported as against ten last year, no more than five occurring in any district, so that there was no serious epidemic in any place. There was one death, a boy aged 7 years, who was also suffering from diabetes.

#### Diph<sup>h</sup>theria.

No case at all was notified during the year—a most unique record, especially following the single case notified last year. During 1945, nearly 200 children were immunized, the majority being under 5 years of



age, only about 30 of the children were between 5 and 15 years. We have not yet overcome the considerable apathy which exists among many parents in spite of posters, leaflets and other advertisements of the desirability of this form of protection.

### **Measles.**

There has been a considerable epidemic of Measles this year, the largest number of cases having been reported since 1940, when 501 cases were notified. This year 408 cases were reported, chiefly in the districts of St. Dennis and St. Stephens, where nearly half the cases occurred. There <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ also a fair number scattered in most districts, 38 being notified from Grampound.

In contrast there were very few cases of whooping cough, only 7 being reported compared with 74 for 1944.

### **Pneumonia.**

There were 13 cases notified and 6 deaths were reported.

### **Erysipelas.**

One case was reported but no death occurred.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

One case was reported, which recovered.

### **Typhoid.**

No case was notified.

### **Puerperal Causes.**

It is pleasing to note that no deaths occurred and there was only one notification. The increasing number of child-births which take place in Maternity Homes under hygienic conditions lessen the incidence of these diseases coupled with the care exercised by the various District Nurses.

### **Tuberculosis.**

Twelve cases were reported, 11 Pulmonary (6 male and 5 female) and 1 Non-pulmonary (female, aged 20). 6 Deaths occurred, 5 of these were notified (83.3% of the cases). I should like again to draw attention to the great usefulness of X-ray photographs for the early diagnosis of this disease. Practically all suspicious cases are now sent at once by the doctors of the neighbourhood to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for examination by Dr. Walker and from there to Truro, if necessary, to be X-rayed.

### **Scabies.**

There are a few black spots still remaining in the district, which I hope may be eventually cleared up. Unless one can instil the need for cleanliness, it is almost impossible to eradicate scabies. Cases can still be sent to Newquay Urban Hostel for treatment.

To sum up, 47 cases of various Infectious Diseases were notified from the Rural District, 31 of these being Scarlet Fever. In addition, 408 notifications of Measles were received and 7 of Whooping Cough, making a total of 462.

## **GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.**

The year 1945 saw the return of most of the evacuees, who had been billeted or otherwise accommodated, in the St. Austell Rural District.

On June 8th, the first party of 82, consisting of 13 children under 3 years of age, 48 children from 3 to 14 years of age, and 21 adults (some aged) returned to the London and Metropolitan Areas.

On June 25th, a second party of 173 unaccompanied children returned to London, many of these had

been evacuated in 1940, and had remained for the whole 5 years in the same billets.

On July 12th, a party of 16 children and 6 teachers belonging to the Catford Central School returned home.

Owing to these returns, hostels for unaccompanied children were no longer needed and Trewoon hostel was therefore closed in August, followed by Penawyn in October. Only 32 evacuees belonging to the Government Evacuation Scheme remained in the District by the end of December. For these facts I have to thank Miss Danbury, the Billeting Officer, whose excellent work under the Evacuation Scheme has greatly contributed to its success in the District.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The volunteers of the united Ambulance Services still continue their efficient and willing work and the sub-joined figures include their services to both Urban and Rural Districts of St. Austell.

Hospital Cases.	Sickness.	Road Accidents.
322	48	11
Works and Other Accidents.	Total Cases.	
27	408	

Mileage - 12,397 miles.      Hours - 859.

(This does not include the time when the ambulance crews are standing by for duty).

There is a prospect of another ambulance being stationed at St. Dennis, which will be a great help in serving that area.

We heartily congratulate Head-Section Leader W. J. Tregidga on receiving the B.R.C.S. Meritorious War Service award from H.M. the Queen at Buckingham Palace recently.

### POST-WAR HOUSING.

It is disappointing not to be able to report greater progress in the erection of the much needed houses throughout the Rural District but certain preliminary steps have been taken, sites have been approved and contracts placed in many cases. We trust that the coming year will see considerable progress made in this respect.

I give below the figures supplied to me by the Sanitary Inspector - Mr. Lawless.

Sites chosen :—20 in twelve parishes.

Contracts placed :—148 houses on 7 of these sites.

Total No. of houses planned for sites :—576.

All sites have to be approved by various Government Departments and this often occasions many delays.

Following the Hobhouse Report, the Ministry of Health has directed that all rural houses must be surveyed for the purpose of categorization, so that the local authority may know their full post-war commitments. The survey of this district has been commenced.

It will be seen from the following Reports of the Council's Engineer, Mr. Witham, and of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Lawless, that very considerable post-war work has been planned for increasing the

amenities of the District with regard to Water Supplies and Sewerage. Many of these schemes are very necessary from the point of view of health and convenience.

## **ENGINEER'S AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT.**

### **FUTURE CAPITAL WORKS.**

I give for your preliminary consideration a list of works of a capital nature which would appear to be necessary in the District.

The list has been compiled partly from definite decisions of the Council to carry out certain works, partly from suggestions made by individual members from time to time and partly from my own observation of conditions in the District.

It is hoped that this list will form a basis which by extension, amendment and re-arrangement may become a definite programme of capital works.

No attempt has been made to arrange the works in any order of priority as this is a matter to which the Council will, no doubt, wish to give consideration.

The estimates given are in the majority of cases only very approximate.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. J. WITHAM,

Engineer & Surveyor.

## CAPITAL WORKS.

## SEWERAGE.

Name.	Description.	Cost.	Remarks.
1. Grampound	Relaying of sewers	£1,500	Already approved.
2. Grampound	New treatment works	2,000	
3. St. Mewan	Trewoon sewerage	12,000	Already approved.
4. Housing Sites	Extension of sewers	3,000	
5. Gorran	Churchtown sewerage	3,000	Already approved.
6. St. Columb Major	New treatment works	3,000	
7. Polgooth	Sewerage scheme	10,000	
8. Whitemoor	" "	8,000	
9. Treviscoe	" "	4,000	
10. Coombe	" "	5,000	
11. Queens & Fraddon	" "	12,000	
12. St. Ewe	" "	4,000	
13. Summercourt	" "	4,000	
14. St. Stephens	New treatment works	2,000	
15. St. Dennis	Extension of works	1,000	
16. High Street	Sewerage scheme	8,000	
17. Sticker	" "	12,000	
		<hr/>	
		£94,500	



# WATER SUPPLY.

Name.	Description.	Cost.	Remarks.
1. Grampound	New mains & reservoir	£ 5,000	Already approved.
2. Hewas Water	Extension of main	1,100	Already approved.
3. Golant	New mains	1,100	Already approved.
4. Hendra, Roche & Trewoon	Chlorination plant at Hendra, Roche and Trewoon & pumping plant at Roche	1,400	Already approved.
5. Northern, Eastern & Southern Parishes	New comprehensive supply scheme	112,000	Approved in principle.
6. Housing Sites	Extension of mains	3,000	
7. Roche	Extension of main	500	Already approved.
8. Enniscaven	" "	1,300	
9. Tregoss	" "	1,500	
10. Belowda	" "	1,500	
11. Lower Sticker	" "	1,800	
12. Trelowth	Renewal of main	1,000	
13. Polgooth	Improvements	1,000	
		<hr/>	
		£132,200	

## **REPORT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

The Inspector making this report has been in this district for the last month only of the year under review, so it may not be quite so comprehensive as it would otherwise have been.

### **Water Supply.**

No major works have been carried out, but new machinery has been installed at Hendra and Hornick pumping stations, making these fully automatic in action.

An improvement in the distribution of water has been made at St. Columb Major by scraping the two mile main from the source to the town.

### **Scavenging.**

The two motor refuse collection vehicles continue to collect from nearly the whole of the district. They have also collected approximately 80 tons of waste paper, metal and bones for salvage.

A motor cesspool emptying vehicle has been put into service. This is very much appreciated throughout the district.

### **Sewerage.**

No material change has taken place in these services, but a number of schemes are in course of preparation for execution at an early date when labour and materials are available.

### **Meat Inspection.**

Regular inspection is made of all animals slaughtered at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Lane.



### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There is continued co-operation with the Cornwall War Agricultural Executive Committee in the inspection and reporting upon new entrants to the milk trade, also with the County Milk Officers in securing improvements to existing registered premises.

### **RODENT CONTROL.**

A Rodent Operative was employed from February 1945. He was engaged mainly in carrying out the initial survey of the district as directed by the Ministry of Food.

The survey revealed that there was need for a full time operative and it is hoped that the necessary van will be obtained early next year.

The operative now deals with the Council's tips, etc., which were previously done by the Cornwall War Agricultural Executive Committee under contract.

The methods and poisons used are those recommended by the Ministry of Food.

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In conclusion I should like to thank the Clerk, Mr. Mitchell, and other members of the staff for their help and co-operation during the past year.





